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20 June 1960

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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Communist Bloc: Khrushchev arrived in Bucharest on 18 June with a strong delegation to attend the Rumanian party congress, which opens on 20 June. The European satellites, with the exception of Albania, will be represented by their party first secretaries, while China and the Asian satellites have sent politburo-level delegations. Peng Chen, the top Chinese representative, is closely associated with the leadership and has considerably more stature than the Chinese observer to the Warsaw Pact meeting in Moscow last February. The composition of the delegations indicates that Khrushchev will utilize the time to meet with bloc leaders in order to discuss future Soviet policy. In private talks Khrushchev will undoubtedly discuss Sino-Soviet differences and probably seek to work out the essentials for an eventual compromise, at the same time reaffirming Soviet leadership in the bloc.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Belgian Congo: Leftist leader Patrice Lumumba apparently has suffered a distinct loss of prestige as a result of his failure to form a national government. Joseph Kasavubu, president of the Abako party and leader of a loose anti-Lumumba coalition, claims to have succeeded in his effort to obtain a majority in the national assembly. However, Lumumba, with the largest single bloc of assembly seats,

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threatens to disrupt the work of any government from which he is excluded. Political fragmentation is continuing at the provincial level, with a state of emergency proclaimed in two of the six provinces and minority parties attempting to set up governments in four provinces.

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DAILY BRIEF

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Cuba: The resignation of two under secretaries in the Cuban Foreign Ministry, announced on 17 June, is probably the precursor of a general shakeup of top officials in the ministry, including the removal of Foreign Minister Roa, who has been held responsible for the failure of various aspects of foreign policy. One of the newly appointed under secretaries is regarded as a Communist; the other has recently voiced strong anti-US sentiments on a tour of Latin America. Both may have been selected by Raul Castro, suggesting that he and the Communists are likely to extend their influence over foreign policy.

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Continuing Crisis in the Belgian Congo

Leftist leader Patrice Lumumba apparently has suffered a sharp drop in prestige as a result of his failure to set up a national Congo government, according to the consul general in Leopoldville. Lumumba's authority to form a government was withdrawn on 17 June by Belgian Resident Minister van der Meersch, who then asked Joseph Kasavubu to attempt the task.

Kasavubu, president of the Abako party and Lumumba's chief rival, derives his support from the Cartel of the National Union, a loose coalition of several parties united chiefly by their opposition to Lumumba. The cartel seems to control a majority in the National Assembly, and on 19 June Kasavubu claimed that he had succeeded in forming a coalition government which he hoped to present to the assembly for approval later this week. However, Lumumba, with the largest single bloc of assembly seats, has a strong minority position and has threatened to disrupt the work of any government from which he is excluded. Following a meeting with Kasavubu on 19 June, Resident Minister van der Meersch flew to Brussels for further consultations on the Congo situation.

Meanwhile, political fragmentation is continuing at the provincial level. A state of emergency has been declared in Katanga and Kivu provinces, and minority parties are attempting to set up their own governments in Katanga, Leopoldville, Kasai, and Equateur provinces. Lumumba's stronghold in Orientale Province is the only area which has so far escaped this trend. Violence has already been reported at scattered locations, and the security situation may deteriorate further as rival groups continue their struggle for power.

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